After Action Report
September 1, 1999 Oil Spill

USS CAMDEN
Float Demolition and Beach Clean-up

Presented to: Washington State
Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by: Navy Region Northwest
Naval On-Scene Coordinator

Float Demolition and Beach Cleanup

Background: On September 1, 1999, the USS CAMDEN spilled an estimated 900 gallons of diesel fuel, 720 gallons of which were recovered. Notifications were conducted and response actions were taken. On October 13, 1999, the Washington State Resource Damage Assessment Committee met and approved a restoration project, subject to approval of the local habitat biologist, to provide full compensation for natural resource damages resulting from the oil spill. Approval by the local habitat biologist was granted in November 1999.

Scope: The project entailed the use of hand labor to dismantle two large floats and remove them from the beach. The floats, which were not Navy property, were hauled ashore several years ago when they began creating a hazard to navigation in the Hood Canal. The floats were approximately 25 ft by 9 ft. and composed primarily of creosote timbers, held together with cable, with Styrofoam floats.

Samples were taken from the floats and a WIS (Waste Information Sheet) was obtained in February 2000, to ensure there were no hazardous materials involved. (Creosote soaked timber constitutes a "problem waste" under Washington State law, but can be taken to a qualified solid waste landfill, with proper notice to the landfill operator). The proposed action was to remove the floats and attached creosote timbers, thus removing a point source of contamination known to cause adverse environmental effects on juvenile salmonids and the marine eco-system, and restore the beach back to a natural state.

Operation: On March 10, 2000, twenty members from USS CAMDEN assembled at the Keyport-Bangor (K-B) Dock to manually dismantle the floats. Chain saws were used to cut larger timbers into manageable lengths for hand-carry off the beach. Torches were used to cut through steel cable and bolts to aid in the dismantling. The torches were also used to cut excess cable embedded in the beach and shoreline. Timbers which had become a part of the embankment were cut off at the bank surface, to prevent the bank from collapsing, but to remove as much float timber as possible. A pier-side crane was used to the lift largest dry-rotted timbers and pier sections off the beach, to reduce excessive chain saw operations.

All debris from the floats was removed from the beach by hand or by crane, along with other trash and garbage found at the site. On March 13, an addition six crew members from the USS CAMDEN assisted the Naval Submarine Base Bangor Construction Battalion Unit in loading the debris for disposal at the Olympic View Landfill in Kitsap County.

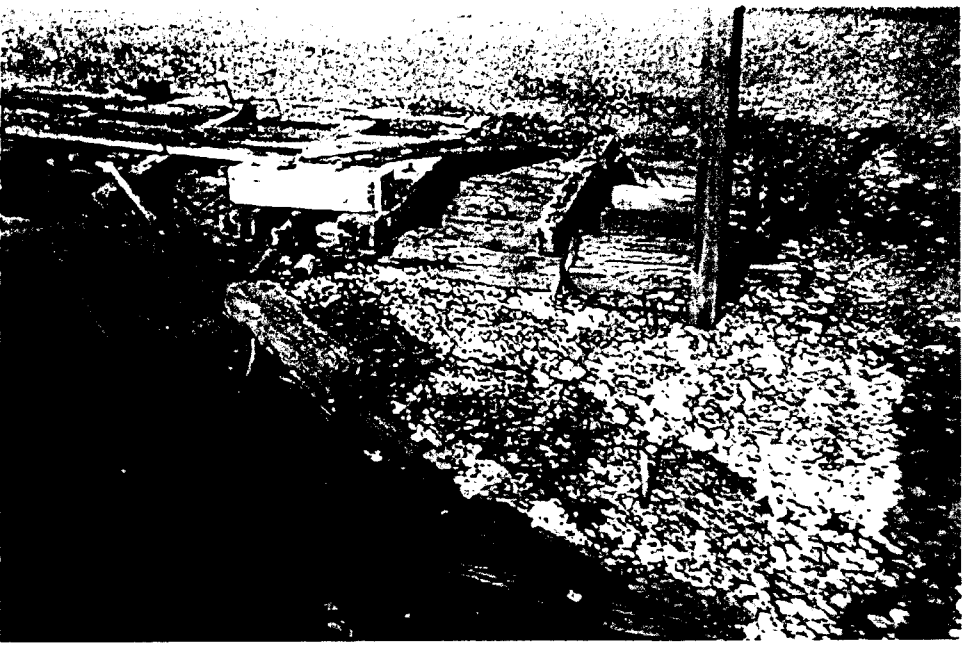
After completion, the site was inspected by the local habitat biologist at the Naval Submarine Base Bangor and the demolition project was deemed a success.

All personnel wore appropriate clothing to include gloves, safety goggles and appropriate footwear. Sufficient food and water accompanied personnel, and medically qualified personnel were present.

Naval Activities Involved: Equipment was provided by the crew of the USS CAMDEN, the Bangor Submarine Base Construction Battalion Unit, and by SUBASE Bangor. The Construction Battalion Unit also provided a front loader and dump trucks for the hauling of the debris to the landfill. Funding for the WIS was provided by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport. The project was overseen by LCDR Karen Ebersole, USNR, Navy Region Northwest.

Before and after photographs are included for your viewing. See Enclosure (1).

Recommendation: The crew of the USS CAMDEN took pride in the task that they had been given and received a better understanding of the value of our environment, and its direct and indirect impact on other habitats. The project had a lasting impression on those involved, and the crew expressed interest in participating in future projects such as this to improve/enhance our local environment. Recommend this type of project for future incidences.



Before

After